

REMARKS

Claim 1 is currently pending in the application. The Office Action rejected Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by US Patent No. 4,177,935 (Centanni). Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define the invention. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.111, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application.

Rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Centanni. The Office Action sets forth the position that Centanni discloses each and every limitation of claim 1.

Claim 1 has been amended above to more clearly define the present embodiment of the application. In that regard, Claim 1 now recites that the method of reducing container folding resistance includes "interposing a relief region along the score line, *said relief region including a plurality of arranged cuts that lie substantially transverse the score line.*" (Emphasis added.) Support for this amendment is found in the application as filed, on page 3, beginning at line 22. No new matter has been added.


It is a well-settled axiom of patent law that in order to anticipate a claim under 35 U.S.C. § 102, a reference must teach each and every element of the claim. A claim is anticipated only if each and every element, as set forth in the claim, is found either expressly or inherently described in a single prior art reference. Centanni does not satisfy this basic requirement. In that regard, Centanni fails to teach or suggest a method of reducing container folding resistance that includes interposing a relief region along the score line, said relief region including a plurality of arranged cuts that lie substantially transverse the score line, as now generally set forth in amended Claim 1. Quite to the contrary, Centanni merely teaches slots 76 and 78 (FIGURE 4) cut in the region of a fold line. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1 is not anticipated by Centanni. As such, Applicant respectfully requests removal of this ground of rejection.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendments and reconsideration and allowance of the claim. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if there are any remaining issues.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

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